Therapeutic Abortions Reported By Hospitals in Alberta

Alberta
HOSPITALS & MEDICAL CARE
Health Economics & Statistics

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- In 1985, 6,544 therapeutic abortions were performed in 21 of 22 hospitals with therapeutic abortion committees in Alberta, a decrease of 1.8% from 1984.
- Seven metropolitan hospitals in Calgary and Edmonton performed 83.8% of all abortions in Alberta in 1985, down from 84.2% in 1984.
- Eight hospitals, performing more than 200 abortions each, accounted for 95.3% of the province's therapeutic abortions. Three of these eight, each performing over 400 abortions, accounted for 75.9% of total abortions in Alberta.
- In 1985, the number of therapeutic abortions performed per 1,000 Alberta females, 15 to 44 years of age, was 10.9 and the number per 100 live births was 14.9. The 1984 rates were 11.2 and 15.1 respectively.
- Women less than 20 years of age accounted for 25.2% of all abortion patients; a further 56.3% were between the ages of 20 and 29 years.
- Single women accounted for 65.8% of therapeutic abortion patients while 19.5% were married and 14.7% separated, divorced, widowed or in common-law arrangements.
- In 1985, 91.5% of abortions were performed on women with 12 or less weeks of gestation as compared with 89.9% in 1984.
- One or more previous induced abortions were reported by 16.6% of therapeutic abortion patients in 1985 while 6.8% reported one or more previous spontaneous abortions. The 1984 figures were 16.6% and 6.9% respectively.
- Suction D&C was the most frequently used initial procedure performed in 77.0% of all abortion cases.
- At least one complication resulting from abortion procedures was reported in 4.5% of the cases, an increase from 4.2% in 1984.
- In 1985, 583 or 8.9% of the women obtained sterilizations concurrently with the therapeutic abortion procedure. In 1984, 539 women or 8.1% were sterilized concurrently.

Introduction

This publication presents pertinent facts about the women who had therapeutic abortions and the care provided to them in Alberta hospitals during 1985. Specifically, the report includes data related to the following topics, among others: demographic and medical information about the therapeutic abortion patients, the nature of medical procedures used and the consequent complications, and the average annual rates of legal abortion, in relation to the female population and the annual level of live births.

Although the focus is on the current Alberta situation, selected historical provincial and national statistics are provided for comparison and trend analysis. To maintain consistency the therapeutic abortion data are taken from hospital records as reported to Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care as in previous years. Since the data are also reported to Statistics Canada the overall comparability of provincial and national statistics is enhanced. Please note: 1985 national therapeutic abortion data are now available from Statistics Canada. However, since those statistics were released after this report had gone to print they are not included.

The Abortion Law

In 1969, the Parliament of Canada passed the Criminal Code Amendment Act, which legalized the performance of abortions under specific conditions. Chapter C-34, Section 251, of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1970, outlines the conditions which must be satisfied for the legal performance of therapeutic abortions. In summary:

1. the abortion procedure must be carried out by a qualified physician;
2. the qualified physician may not be a member of the hospital's therapeutic abortion committee;
3. the procedure is permitted only in an accredited or an approved hospital, the former consisting of general hospitals accredited by the Canadian Council of Hospital Accreditation and the latter being hospitals approved by the Provincial Minister of Health; and
4. the decision regarding the termination of pregnancy is placed before the hospital's therapeutic abortion committee. The committee must decide whether or not continuation of the pregnancy "would or would be likely to" endanger the life or health of the female patient.

While some aspects of the conditions are decidedly clear, certain other aspects are not. The institutional requirements (the hospital board appointment of committee members, the composition of the committee, the qualifications of the practitioners performing therapeutic abortions, the stipulation that abortions may be performed only in accredited or approved hospitals) are explicitly defined. Conditions concerning the potential patients, such as a definition of the term "health", or specific limits on the gestation time frame, are not given attention. These patient-related issues are resolved in an individual manner by the therapeutic abortion committees when reviewing the applications brought before them.

Hospital Services

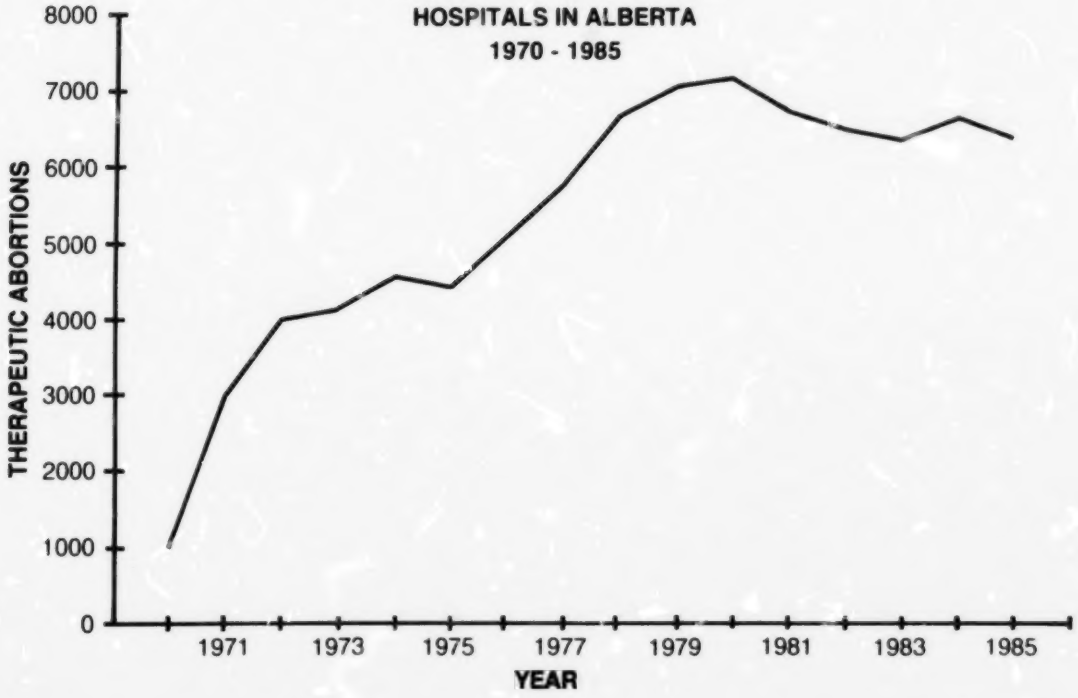
Abortions Performed in Alberta and Canadian Hospitals

In Alberta, each hospital which is qualified under the terms of the Criminal Code makes its own decision as to whether or not it will provide therapeutic abortion services. A list of participating hospitals appears in Appendix B of this report. In 1985, 6,544 therapeutic abortions were performed in 21 of 22 hospitals in Alberta with therapeutic abortion committees, a decrease of 1.8% from 1984. Although 1985 statistics are not available for Canada, 1984 data show a slight increase, 0.8% from the figure of the previous year.

Although total abortions increased in both Alberta and Canada in 1984, the percentage increase was larger for Alberta. Thus, total legal abortions in Alberta, expressed as a percentage of those performed in Canada, increased from 10.5% in 1983 to 10.7% in 1984. Figure 1 illustrates the trend in total abortions from 1970 to the present. Table A-1 in Appendix A contains the data for both Alberta and Canada.

FIGURE 1

ALBERTA HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CARE
THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN
HOSPITALS IN ALBERTA
1970 - 1985



Distribution of Hospitals and Therapeutic Abortions by Number of Abortions Performed

In 1985, eight hospitals performing over 200 abortions each, accounted for 95.3% of all therapeutic abortions in the province. Three of these hospitals accounted for 75.9% of total abortions in Alberta. Approximately 59.1% of all hospitals with abortion committees each performed 100 or less abortions. One hospital carried out no therapeutic abortions in 1985 although a committee was in operation.

The distribution and concentration of abortions across hospitals in Alberta in 1985 are not unlike the Canadian distribution and concentration in 1984. As of January 1, 1984, there were 249 hospitals with therapeutic abortion committees in Canada (22 in Alberta in 1985). No abortions were reported by 18% of the eligible Canadian hospitals (4.5% in Alberta); 42.3% reported between 1 and 100 abortions

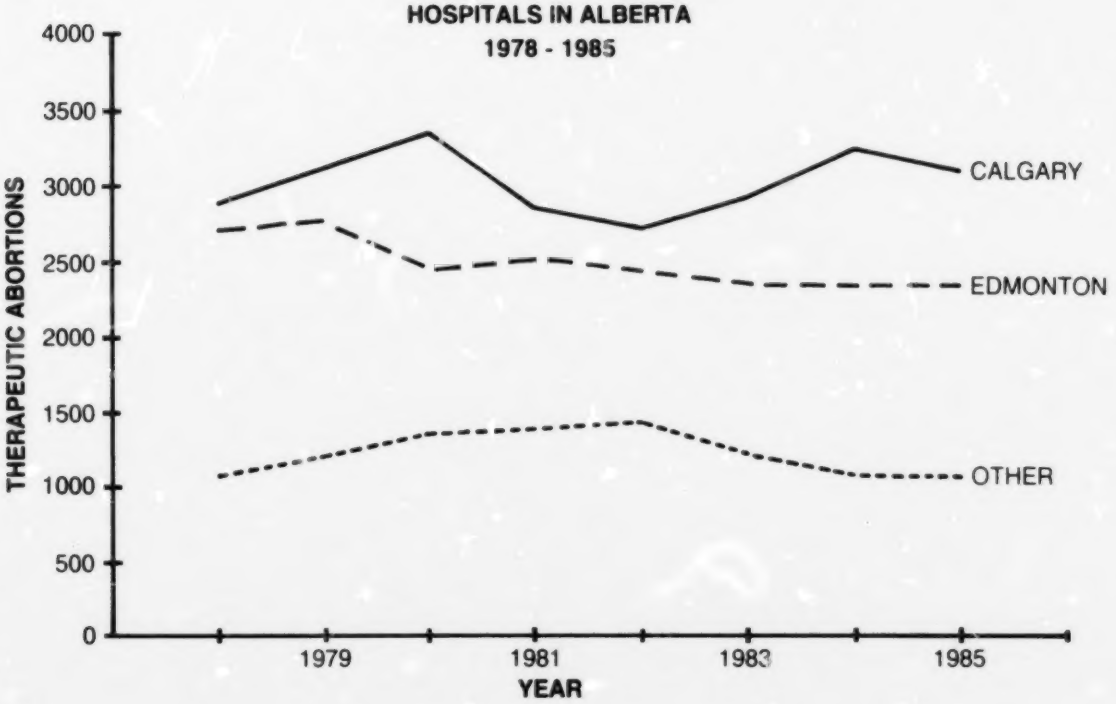
(54.5% in Alberta), accounting for 5.3% of the total 62,291 cases in the country (2.9% in Alberta); 24% of the eligible Canadian hospitals (27.3% in Alberta) performed between 101 and 400 therapeutic abortions each, representing 20.9% of total Canadian cases (21.2% of Alberta's cases). The remaining 15.6% of eligible hospitals in Canada (13.6% in Alberta) performed over 400 abortions each and accounted for 73.9% of all abortions in the country (75.9% in Alberta)[1]. Further information regarding the distribution and concentration of abortions in Alberta hospitals can be found in Table A-2 of Appendix A.

Abortions by Hospital Location

In 1985, seven eligible hospitals in Calgary and Edmonton reported 5,482 abortions, accounting for 83.8% of all legal abortions in Alberta. This was a decrease over the 1984 proportion of 84.2%. Since 1983 Calgary's proportion of total abortions has been increasing and Edmonton's decreasing. In 1985 these trends reversed as Calgary's share of total abortions fell from 48.7% in 1984 to 47.4% while Edmonton reported an increase in its share of the province's total, from 35.6% to 36.3%. Although the majority of Calgary and Edmonton cases were likely comprised of residents of the two cities, these hospitals served as referral centres for women originating from other parts of the province and country. Figure 2 presents an historical perspective of the proportion of total abortions performed in three locations in Alberta (Edmonton, Calgary and all other locations). Details regarding the distribution of therapeutic abortions by hospital location are presented in Table A-3 of Appendix A.

FIGURE 2

ALBERTA HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CARE
THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN
HOSPITALS IN ALBERTA
1978 - 1985



[1] Source: Canadian data were taken from Statistics Canada; **Therapeutic Abortions;** Catalogue 82-211, 1983 and 1984 vol., p. 12 and the **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File**, 1985.

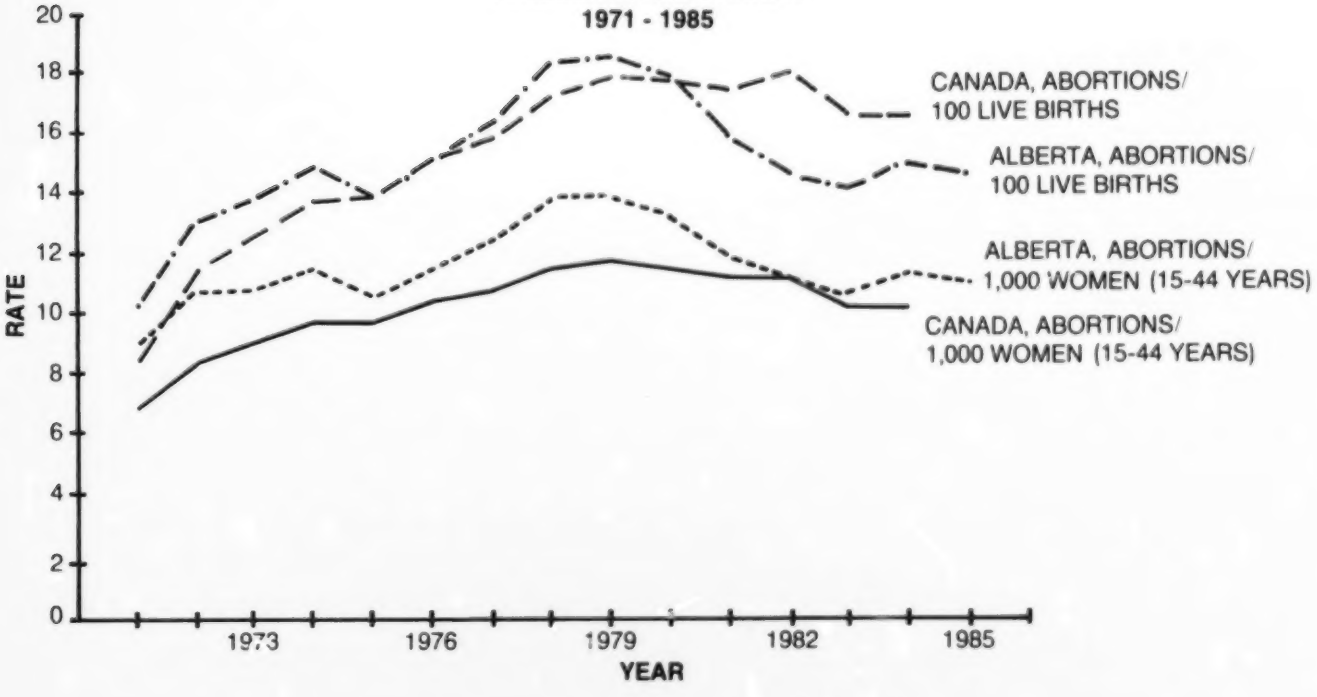
Therapeutic Abortion Rates in Alberta and Canada

Two types of abortion rates were calculated; per 1,000 females aged 15-44 years and per 100 live births. The Alberta abortion rate per 1,000 females (aged 15-44 years) fell from 11.2 in 1984 to 10.9 in 1985. The rate for Canada was 10.2 in both 1983 and 1984. Figure 3 presents trends in abortion rates for Alberta and Canada from 1971 to 1985. Historical data are presented in Table A-5 of Appendix A.

Although total abortions and live births declined in Alberta between 1984 and 1985, total abortions dropped by a larger percentage resulting in a fall in the abortion rate per 100 live births (15.1 in 1984 to 14.9 in 1985). The Canadian 1984 rate remained at the 1983 level of 16.5. For the past five years, Alberta has had a lower rate of abortions per 100 live births than has Canada. This is due to the difference between the fertility rates (live births per 1,000 females 15-44 years) of Alberta and Canada which has been much larger than the difference in the abortion rates. An algebraic expression in Endnote 'g' clearly presents the relationship of two abortion rates to the fertility rate and contains an explanation for the difference between Alberta's and Canada's abortion rate per 100 live births.

FIGURE 3

ALBERTA HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CARE
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION RATES
IN ALBERTA AND CANADA
1971 - 1985



Selected Demographic Characteristics of Therapeutic Abortion Patients

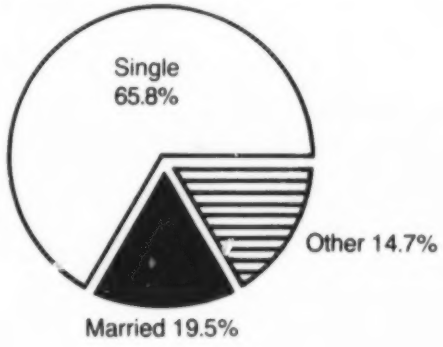
Residence

In 1985, Alberta residents obtained 6,499 abortions, representing 99.31% of all abortion cases. Similarly, in 1984, Canadian residents accounted for 99.93% of all legal abortions performed in Canadian hospitals. Of the 45 non-residents of Alberta who received abortions in Alberta hospitals, 44 were residents of other Canadian provinces or territories and one was from out of the country. Alberta residents accounted for 4,917 days (99.31%) of the total 4,951 hospital days attributed to therapeutic abortions. Statistical detail is provided in Appendix A, Table A-4.

Marital Status

From 1981 to 1983, the proportion of total therapeutic abortions performed on single women followed a downward trend falling from 69.2% in 1981 to 64.2% in 1983. This trend did not continue into 1984 as the percentage of single women obtaining abortions in Alberta hospitals rose to 66.3% falling again to 65.8% in 1985. The proportion of married women remained constant at the 1984 rate of 19.5%. Figure 4 presents the distribution of therapeutic abortions by marital status for Alberta in 1985. Historical data regarding this distribution are presented in Table A-6 of Appendix A.

FIGURE 4

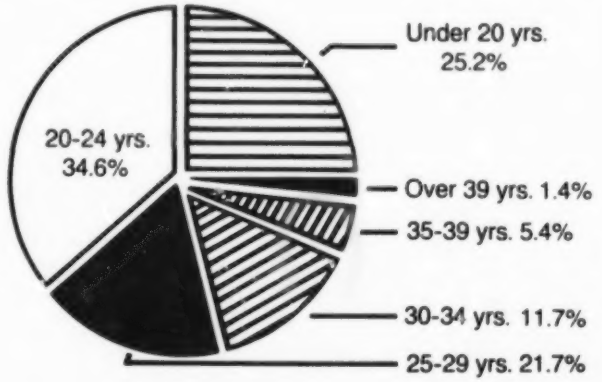


Age

There was a slight decrease in the proportion of therapeutic abortions in Alberta performed on women under 20 years of age, continuing the trend which began in 1979 (36.1% in 1979 to 25.2% in 1985). Women aged 20 to 24 years also accounted for a smaller proportion of total abortions in 1985. The mode of the distribution changed in 1980 from the 15 to 19 years of age category to the 20 to 24 years group and has since remained there.

Details are provided in Tabel A-6 of Appendix A. Figure 5 illustrates the age distribution of women having abortions in Alberta hospitals in 1985.

FIGURE 5



Teenage Abortions

In both Alberta and Canada the proportion of therapeutic abortions performed on teenage patients has been declining since 1979. This year teenagers accounted for only 25.2%, down marginally from 25.4% in 1984. Canadian teens accounted for 23.6% of all abortions in the country in 1984, down from the 24.9% of the previous year. Approximately 96.1% of all Alberta teenage women receiving abortions were single; 1.6% were married and 2.3% were either divorced, widowed, separated or living in common-law arrangements.

TABLE 1
TEENAGE ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADIAN[b] HOSPITALS, 1980 TO 1985

	ALBERTA[d]		CANADA[c]	
Year	Therapeutic Abortions To Patients Under 20 Years	Percentage of Total Abortions For All Ages	Therapeutic Abortions To Patients Under 20 Years	Percentage of Total Abortions For All Ages
		(%)		(%)
1985	**1,650**	**25.2**	**n/a**	**n/a**
1984	1,696	25.4	14,598	23.6
1983	1,722	26.6	16,696	24.9
1982	1,880	28.5	17,647	26.8
1981	2,179	32.4	18,269	28.3
1980	2,424	34.1	19,351	29.7

Refer to the Endnotes for notes a and b.

c Source: Statistics Canada, **Therapeutic Abortions,** Catalogue 82-211; 1980 vol., p. 64; 1981 vol., p. 54; 1982 vol., p. 90 and 1983 and 1984 vol., p. 13 and 14.

d Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File,** 1980 to 1985.

Selected Characteristics Relating to the Pregnancy Record of Therapeutic Abortion Patients

Gestation Period

The gestation period, defined as the interval between the onset of the last menstrual period and the expulsion or removal of the fetus, is calculated as the difference between the date the preganacy is terminated and the first day of the last normal menses and is expressed in completed weeks rather than in days. In cases where the last normal menses is not known, gestation is clinically estimated. Since 1978, at least 80% of therapeutic abortions in Alberta have been performed on patients having gestation periods of 12 weeks or less.

TABLE 2
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADIAN[b] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY GESTATION PERIOD[c] (1980 TO 1985 SELECTED YEARS)

	ALBERTA[e]			CANADA[d]	
Gestation Period	**1985**	1984	1980	1984	1980
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Under 9 wks.	**29.4**	27.6	16.0	29.5	24.7
9 - 12 wks.	**62.1**	62.3	67.2	58.5	61.4
13 - 16 wks.	**6.3**	7.9	13.0	8.6	10.4
17 - 30 wks.	**2.0**	2.1	3.7	3.1	3.4
21 wks. or Over	**0.1**	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2
Under 13 wks.	**91.5**	89.9	83.2	88.0	86.0
13 wks. or Over	**8.5**	10.0	16.8	12.0	14.0
TOTAL	**100.0**	99.9[z]	100.0	100.0	100.0

Refer to the Endnotes for notes a and b.

c Gestation periods are expressed as the number of completed weeks of pregnancy.
d Statistics Canada, **Therapeutic Abortions,** Catalogue 82-211; 1983 and 1984 vol., p. 40.
e **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File,** 1980 to 1985.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

In 1985, 91.5% of all therapeutic abortions in Alberta were performed prior to 13 weeks gestation and 29.4% were performed prior to 9 weeks. The proportions have been increasing continuously since 1981. In 1984, 88.0% of all legal abortions in Canada were performed prior to 13 weeks gestation (up from 87.9% in 1983) and 29.5% of all cases occurred prior to 9 weeks gestation (up from 27.7% in 1983).

Considering therapeutic abortions by age and marital status, at least 87% of all patients in each age and marital category in Alberta in 1985 received an abortion prior to 13 weeks gestation. Historically (since 1972), single women and teenagers have had proportionately fewer abortions in early gestation stages (prior to 13 weeks) than women in other marital and age categories. Tables A-7 and A-8 in Appendix A provide further details.

Previous Deliveries

At least one previous delivery was reported by 39% of all abortion patients in Alberta, an increase over the 38% of 1984. Comparable Canadian figures for 1984 and 1983 were 38% and 37.1% respectively. Although the Alberta proportion has been less than the national figures for some time, there is no longer a significant difference between the province and Canada regarding abortion patients who have had previous deliveries.

Of all single women having abortions in Alberta, 18.7% had at least one previous delivery compared to 82.4% of all married women and 72.3% of all other women.

Generally, the older the patient, the greater the likelihood of a previous delivery. Of all patients 30 years of age or older, 73.7% had one or more previous deliveries as compared to 31.1% of women less than 30 years. Proportions for 1984 were 70.8% and 30.9% respectively. Further information is available in Table 3 and Table A-9 of Appendix A.

TABLE 3
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADIAN[b] HOSPITALS, WITH PREVIOUS DELIVERIES, 1980 TO 1985

YEAR	ALBERTA[c]	CANADA[d]
	(%)	(%)
1985	**39.0**	n/a
1984	38.0	38.0
1983	36.4	37.1
1982	34.2	36.1
1981	32.2	35.9
1980	32.1	35.7

Refer to the Endnotes for notes a and b.

c Source: Statistics Canada, **Therapeutic Abortions**, Catalogue 82-211; 1983 and 1984 vol., p. 40.
d Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File**, 1980 to 1985.

Previous Spontaneous or Induced Abortions

Of all women who had therapeutic abortions in Alberta in 1985, 6.8% had previous spontaneous abortions. This figure compares to 6.5% of all Canadian abortion patients in 1984.

In 1985, 16.6% of all women having abortions reported at least one previous induced abortion. This proportion has been on a general upward trend for a number of years (since at least 1982) for both Alberta and Canada, with the province consistently reporting figures less than those of Canada. Some historical data are provided in Table 4.

Previous induced abortions were reported by 20.1% of Alberta women who were separated, divorced, widowed or in common-law arrangements; 16.5% of all single women and 14.3% of married patients also reported previous induced abortions. The 1984 percentages were 21.5%, 15.8% and 15.7% respectively. Considering the distribution of previous induced abortions by age groups, women aged 25 to 29 years had the highest proportion, 22.1% down slightly from 22.5% in 1984. Further details are provided in Appendix A, Table A-10.

TABLE 4
PERCENTAGE OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADIAN[b] HOSPITALS, WITH PREVIOUS INDUCED OR SPONTANEOUS ABORTIONS, 1980 TO 1985

	Induced Abortions		Spontaneous Abortions	
Year	Alberta[d]	Canada[c]	Alberta[d]	Canada[c]
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
1985	**16.6**	n/a	**6.8**	n/a
1984	16.6	19.5	6.9	6.5
1983	14.6	18.9	7.0	6.3
1982	13.5	17.5	5.8	5.6
1981	11.7	16.3	6.0	5.9
1980	12.0	15.3	6.0	6.0

Refer to the Endnotes for notes a and b.
c Source: Statistics Canada, **Therapeutic Abortions,** Catalogue 82-211; 1983 and 1984 vol., p. 40.
d Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File,** 1980 to 1985.

Selected Medical Characteristics of Therapeutic Abortions Cases

Days of Hospital Care

From 1980 to 1984 the proportion of women in Alberta receiving therapeutic abortions on an out-patient basis increased steadily, reaching 42.2% in 1984. This proportion fell to 39.0% in 1985. As some hospitals in Alberta admit the women for one day of observation after an abortion is performed, it is suggested that the sum of out-patients and in-patients receiving one day of care be used when comparing the province to Canada. The sum of the two categories has also been steadily increasing since 1972, and continued to increase from 90.4% in 1984 and to 91.9% in 1985. The comparable Canadian figure for 1984 is 90.6%.

Since the proportion of out-patient and one day in-patients has been increasing it follows then, that the percentage of abortion cases staying more than one day in hospital has been declining since 1972. Those women staying two days or more in Alberta hospitals fell from 9.6% in 1984 to 8.1% in 1985, continuing a downward trend which has been relatively steady and uninterrupted since 1972.

In 1985, Alberta hospitals recorded the average length of stay for abortion cases (excluding out-patients) to be 1.2 days, the lowest ever reported in the province for these women. Canada recorded 1.6 days in 1984 compared with Alberta's 1.3 days of that same year. Overall, both Canada and Alberta have had a falling average length of stay since 1972 with Alberta's declining faster than that of the nation. Length of stay is a function of a number of variables which include the length of the gestation period, type of the initial procedure, type and number of complications, whether sterilization is also done, the age of the woman and whether or not she has had previous deliveries. For the most part these downward trends in average length of stay can be attributed to the increased proportion of abortions performed before 13 weeks gestation, when fewer serious complications (requiring hospitalization) occur.

Table 5 presents the distribution of days of hospital care and average length of stay for Alberta and Canada for selected years between 1980 and 1985. Additional information is presented in Appendix A, Table A-11.

TABLE 5
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADIAN[b] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY DAYS OF HOSPITAL CARE AND AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY (1980 TO 1985, SELECTED YEARS)

	ALBERTA[e]			CANADA[c]	
Days of Hospital Care	**1985**	1984	1980	1984	1980
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Out-patients	**39.0**	42.2	30.7	73.9	59.7
In-Patients					
1 Day	**52.9**	48.2	46.2	16.7	21.4
2 Days	**4.8**	5.7	13.4	6.4	12.6
3 Days	**1.8**	2.2	5.8	1.7	3.6
4 or More Days	**1.5**	1.7	3.8	1.3	2.6
Total	**100.0**	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.9[z]
Average Length of Stay Excluding Out-Patients	**1.2**	1.3	1.6	1.6[d]	1.8[d]

Refer to the Endnotes for notes a and b.
c Source: Statistics Canada, **Therapeutic Abortions,** Catalogue 82-211; 1983 and 1984 vol., p. 41.
d Source: Statistics Canada, **Therapeutic Abortions,** Catalogue 82-211, 1983 and 1984 vol., p. 46 and 1982 vol., p. 29.
e Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File,** 1980 to 1985.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedure used.

Surgical Procedures

Initial Surgical Procedures

Procedures undertaken to terminate pregnancy are referred to as initial surgical procedures. In 1985, hospitals in Alberta reported 95.8% of such procedures to be of the D&C method. The corresponding 1984 figure was 95.5%, continuing the trend towards the use of these procedures over all others. Since 1972, Suction D&C and the combination procedure Suction & Surgical D&C have generally been favoured over Surgical D&C when curettage abortion procedures have been required in Alberta hospitals. In 1985, Suction D&C accounted for 77.0% of all Alberta's initial procedures (76.6% in 1984), Suction & Surgical D&C accounted for 18.4% (18.7% in 1984) and Surgical D&C accounted for only 0.4% (0.2% in 1984). The proportion of women receiving abortions in Alberta by Saline and Urea injections and Hysterectomy and Hysterotomy procedures have been declining since 1972. These trends can be attributed to the increased percentage of abortions being performed prior to 13 weeks gestation as initial D&C procedures are performed early in the gestation period. Details are provided in Table 6 and in Table A-12 of Appendix A.

Subsequent Surgical Procedures

Subsequent surgical procedures may be performed when initial procedures result in complications. In 1985, 3.6% of all women having therapeutic abortions in Alberta underwent such procedures. Although this percentage was equal to the 1984 proportion there has been a slight downward trend in the proportion of women requiring subsequent procedures over the last three years. Canadian figures, historically, have been significantly lower than those of Alberta with 1.5% of Canadian women having abortions requiring subsequent procedures in 1984.

TABLE 6
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADIAN[b] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY INITIAL SURGICAL PROCEDURES (1980 TO 1985, SELECTED YEARS)

	ALBERTA[d]			CANADA[c]	
Initial Surgical Procedures	**1985**	1984	1980	1984	1980
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Surgical D & C	**0.4**	0.2	10.3	3.1	5.7
Suction D & C	**77.0**	76.6	70.5	91.9	84.5
Surgical & Suction D & C	**18.4**	18.7	9.6	n/a[e]	3.5
Hysterotomy	**0.2**	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.3
Hysterectomy	**0.1**	0.1	0.2	-	0.1
Saline/Saline D & C	**-**	0.3	0.5	2.2	2.7
Urea	**0.4**	1.5	2.8	0.5	0.9
Others	**3.5**	2.3	5.4	2.1	2.1
Total	**100.0**	100.0	100.0	99.9[z]	99.8[z]

Refer to the Endnotes for notes a and b.

c Source: Statistics Canada, **Therapeutic Abortions,** Catalogue 82-211; 1983 and 1984 vol., p. 43 and 1980 vol., p. 80.

d Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File,** 1980 to 1985.

e Due to changes in reporting procedures for Statistics Canada, all D & C procedures are coded as either surgical or suction. Combination procedures cannot be identified.

z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

Only 1.4% of all initial D&C procedures required subsequent methods, down from 1.5% in 1984. No subsequent procedures were performed with initial procedures such as Hysterectomy and Hysterotomy. The percentage of women requiring subsequent surgical procedures with initial procedures such as Saline or Urea were quite different in 1985 as compared to 1984. For example, when Saline procedures were used as initial procedures in 1984, only 27.8% (5 out of 18 cases) required subsequent procedures as opposed to 100.0% (1 case) in 1985. These percentages should be interpreted with care as slight changes in the actual numbers can have exaggerated effects in the proportions when a small number of cases is concerned.

Of all subsequent procedures performed, the most frequent were of the D&C type which collectively accounted to 50.6% (Surgical D&C 34.9%, Suction D&C 14.5% and Surgical and Suction D&C, 1.3%), a significant reduction from the 71.3% in 1984. An explanation for the rather high proportion of subsequent procedures to be of the D&C type may be that a higher percentage of abortions were performed prior to 13 weeks gestation (a period where D&C initial and subsequent procedures generally are carried out more quickly and effectively than other procedures). Details can be found in Table 7 and Tables A-13 and A-14 in Appendix A.

TABLE 7
THE PERCENTAGE OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADIAN[b] HOSPITALS REQUIRING SUBSEQUENT SURGICAL PROCEDURES, 1980 TO 1985

ALBERTA[d]						CANADA[c]	
1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1984	1980
3.6%	3.6%	3.9%	4.7%	4.0%	4.3%	1.5%	1.7%

Refer to the Endnotes for notes a and b.
c Source: Statistics Canada, **Therapeutic Abortions,** Catalogue 82-211; 1983 and 1984 vol., p. 46 and 1980 vol., p. 82.
d Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File,** 1980 to 1985.

Abortion Complications

The conditions of morbidity occurring as a result of pregnancy termination are defined as abortion complications. The following discussion relates only to data regarding the hospitalization period directly following the termination of pregnancies. In 1985, 4.5% of all women having abortions in Alberta hospitals had complications, reversing a general downward trend in the complication rate which began in 1978. The fall over time in the complication rate was, in part, due to the increase in the proportion of abortions performed prior to 13 weeks gestation where the risk of complication is lower. Although this proportion continued to increase in 1985, the complication rate rose from 4.2% to 4.5%. It is important to note that although the complication rate increased, the types of additional complications were not sufficiently serious to warrant subsequent surgical procedures (i.e., no overall increase in the percentage of women requiring subsequent surgical procedures occurred).

The complication which occurred most frequently in 1985 was retained products of conception which accounted for 56.0% of all complications. The shorter the gestation, the lower the probability that a retained product type of complication will occur. It follows then, that as the proportion of abortions being performed prior to 13 weeks gestation increases, the proportion of total complications which are retained products will decrease. This downward trend in the retained products complication has been occurring since 1982.

Complications involving infection accounted for 13.8% of all complications (up from 9.3% in 1984); haemorrhage accounted for 9.7% (up from 9.0%); laceration of the cervix accounted for 12.6% (up from 9.3%); perforation of the uterus accounted for 4.7% (up from 3.7%) and all other complications comprised 3.2% of total complications (down from 4.0%). Details regarding abortion complications are provided in Table 8 and Tables A-15 and A-16 in Appendix A.

Although the complication rate in Alberta has generally been declining, it has always been significantly higher than the Canadian rate. The risk of complication is directly related to patient age, length

of gestation, initial procedure and whether or not the woman has had previous deliveries. Alberta has tended to have larger proportions of patients in the higher risk groups (e.g. patients under 25 years of age, gestation longer than 9 weeks and no previous deliveries). A more detailed explanation is presented in the Endnote 'h'.

TABLE 8
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADIAN[b] HOSPITALS WITH AT LEAST ONE ABORTION COMPLICATION, 1980 TO 1985

ALBERTA[d,h]						CANADA[c,h]	
1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1984	1980
4.5%	4.2%	4.3%	4.6%	4.6%	4.9%	2.0%	2.4%

Refer to the Endnotes for notes a, b and h.
c Source: Statistics Canada, **Therapeutic Abortions,** Catalogue 82-211; 1983 and 1984 vol., p. 40.
d Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File,** 1980 to 1985.

Concurrent Sterilizations

A total of 583 or 8.9% of all women receiving a therapeutic abortion in Alberta hospitals in 1984 were sterilized concurrently with the abortion procedure. This was an increase for the second consecutive year, both in the absolute number as well as in the proportion of all abortion patients undergoing concurrent sterilization (compared to 539 or 8.1% in 1984). The following procedures were used: tubal ligation (49.9%), tubal coagulation (16.8%), bilateral salpingectomy (2.1%) and hysterectomy (1.0%); the remainder (30.2%) were sterilized using other methods. Data regarding women sterilized concurrently with an abortion are presented in Table 9.

TABLE 9
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADIAN[b] HOSPITALS, UNDERGOING CONCURRENT STERILIZATION, 1980 TO 1985

Year	ALBERTA[d]	CANADA[c]
	(%)	(%)
1985	**8.9**	n/a
1984	8.1	7.3
1983	8.0	7.2
1982	8.4	7.6
1981	9.1	7.7
1980	8.3	7.7

Refer to the Endnotes for notes a and b.
c Source: Statistics Canada, **Therapeutic Abortions,** Catalogue 82-211; 1983 and 1984 vol., p. 40.
d Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File,** 1980 to 1985.

The sterilization decision relates directly to both the woman's age and whether or not she has had previous deliveries (i.e. generally, an older woman with several previous deliveries is more likely to choose sterilization than a young woman with no previous deliveries). Of the 583 women sterilized concurrently with an abortion, 62.3% were 30 years of age or older. Patients under the age of 25 years accounted for 13.7% of all sterilizations, up from 11.3% in 1984. Regarding the 1985 age distribution of sterilized Alberta patients, the mode was the 30 to 34 years category as it was in 1984.

Only 11.7% of all patients sterilized had no previous deliveries, up from 10.9% in 1984. Of those patients sterilized who did have previous deliveries, 73.4% reported having had two or more. Details are presented in Table A-17 of Appendix A.

Appendix A

STATISTICAL TABLES

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TABLE A-1
NUMBER OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS
REPORTED BY HOSPITALS IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADA[b]
1970 TO 1985

	ALBERTA[c]			CANADA[b]	
Year	Number	Annual Change	As % of Canada	Number	Annual Change
		(%)	(%)		(%)
1985	**6,544**	**-1.8**	n/a	n/a	n/a
1984	6,665	2.9	10.7	62,291	0.8
1983	6,475	-1.2	10.5	61,800	-6.8
1982	6,556	-2.6	9.9	66,319	1.8
1981	6,728	-5.3	10.3	65,127	-1.1
1980	7,108	1.0	10.8	65,855	1.1
1979	7,036	5.4	10.8	65,135	4.5
1978	6,677	15.8	10.7	62,351	8.2
1977	5,766	13.4	10.0	57,620	5.7
1976	5,083	15.2	9.3	54,536	10.4
1975	4,412	-1.2	8.9	49,390	2.5
1974	4,464	8.1	9.3	48,198	11.5
1973	4,130	3.2	9.6	43,245	11.2
1972	4,002	26.3	10.3	38,905	25.7
1971	3,169	170.4	10.2	30,949	176.3
1970	1,172	-	10.5	11,200	-

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.

b Source: Statistics Canada, **Therapeutic Abortions,** Catalogue 82-211; 1983 and 1984 vol., p. 10. Includes both residents and non-residents of Canada who received therapeutic abortions in Canadian hospitals.

c Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File,** 1970 to 1985.

TABLE A-2
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED HOSPITALS AND THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS BY THERAPEUTIC ABORTION RANGES, ALBERTA[a] 1980-1985

	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Hospitals with Abortion Committees	**21***	22*	22*	22*	22*	25**
Abortion Range	Percent Distribution of Hospitals with Committees					
0	**4.5**	4.5	4.5	-	4.6	4.0
1-20	**45.5**	36.4	36.4	27.3	18.2	24.0
21-50	**4.5**	13.6	18.2	18.2	27.2	28.0
51-100	**4.5**	4.5	-	9.1	4.6	8.0
101-200	**4.5**	4.5	4.5	13.6	13.6	8.0
201-400	**22.7**	22.7	18.2	13.6	13.6	16.0
Over 400	**13.6**	13.6	18.2	18.2	18.2	12.0
Total	**99.8z**	99.8z	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Therapeutic Abortions	**6,544**	6,665	6,475	6,556	6,728	7,108
Abortion Range	Percent Distribution of Therapeutic Abortions					
1-20	**1.7**	0.9	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.5
21-50	**0.4**	1.2	1.7	1.7	3.0	3.1
51-100	**0.8**	1.0	-	1.6	0.8	2.3
101-200	**1.8**	1.7	2.4	6.5	7.1	4.5
201-400	**19.4**	20.2	17.2	14.5	13.1	16.8
Over 400	**75.9**	75.1	77.5	74.9	75.5	72.8
Total	**100.0**	100.1z	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* As of December 31.
**As of January 1, 1980. Includes one hospital which lost accreditation status on November 25, 1980 and discontinued therapeutic abortion services as of that date.
Refer to the Endnotes for note a.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.
Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File,** 1980 to 1985.

TABLE A-3
THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS BY HOSPITAL LOCATION, ALBERTA[a]
1978 TO 1985

	CALGARY			EDMONTON			OTHER		
Year	Number	Annual Change	% of all Services	Number	Annual Change	% of all Services	Number	Annual Change	% of all Services
		(%)	(%)		(%)	(%)		(%)	(%)
1985	**3,105**	**-4.3**	**47.4[z]**	**2,377**	**0.3**	**36.3[z]**	**1,062**	**1.0**	**16.2[z]**
1984	3,244	10.2	48.7[z]	2,370	0.3	35.6[z]	1,051	-10.1	15.8[z]
1983	2,943	7.1	45.4	2,363	-3.2	36.5	1,169	-14.5	18.1
1982	2,747	-5.1	41.9	2,442	-2.4	37.2	1,367	2.8	20.9
1981	2,896	-13.4	43.0	2,502	1.8	37.2	1,330	1.8	19.8
1980	3,343	7.4	47.0	2,458	-10.6	34.6	1,307	11.3	18.4
1979	3,114	8.4	44.3	2,748	0.9	39.0	1,174	8.5	16.7
1978	2,872	7.2	43.0	2,723	29.4	40.8	1,082	10.3	16.2

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to rounding procedures used.
Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File**, 1978 to 1985.

TABLE A-4
THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS,
DISTRIBUTION BY PATIENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE, 1980 TO 1985

Place of Residence	**1985**	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Alberta	**99.31**	99.16	99.14	99.44	99.14	98.78
Other Provinces	**0.67**	0.83	0.80	0.55	0.82	1.19
Out of Canada	**0.02**	0.02	0.06	0.01	0.04	0.03
Total	**100.00**	100.01[z]	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to rounding procedures used.
Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File**, 1980 to 1985.

TABLE A-5
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION RATES IN ALBERTA AND CANADA
1971 TO 1985[c]

	ALBERTA[e,f,g]		CANADA[d]	
Year	Rate Per 1,000 Females 15-44 Years	Rate Per 100 Live Births	Rate Per 1,000 Females 15-44 Years	Rate Per 100 Live Births
1985	**10.9**	**14.9**	n/a	n/a
1984	11.2	15.1	10.2	16.5
1983	10.8	14.2	10.2	16.5
1982	11.2	14.7	11.1	17.8
1981	12.0	15.8	11.1	17.5
1980	13.3	17.9	11.5	17.7
1979	13.6	18.6	11.6	17.8
1978	13.6	18.5	11.3	17.4
1977	12.4	16.4	10.6	15.9
1976	11.5	15.0	10.3	15.1
1975	10.6	13.7	9.6	13.7
1974	11.3	14.7	9.6	13.7
1973	10.8	13.8	8.9	12.6
1972	10.7	13.3	8.2	11.2
1971	8.9	10.2	6.6	8.5

Refer to the Endnotes for notes c, d, e, f and g.

Note: Includes only Canadian women receiving therapeutic abortions in Canadian hospitals. Excludes women receiving legal abortions outside of Canada.

TABLE A-6
WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY MARITAL STATUS AND AGE, 1980 TO 1985

	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Total Therapeutic Abortions	**6,544**	6,665	6,475	6,556	6,728	7,108
Distribution by Marital Status	**(%)**	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Single	**65.8**	66.3	64.2	64.5	69.2	70.2
Married	**19.5**	19.5	19.7	19.2	17.5	17.2
Others[b]	**14.7**	14.2	16.1	16.3	13.3	12.6
TOTAL	**100.0**	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Distribution by Age Group	**(%)**	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Under 15	**0.9**	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.0
15 - 19	**24.3**	24.7	25.7	27.8	31.4	33.1
20 - 24	**34.6**	35.3	37.1	36.7	36.4	35.5
25 - 29	**21.7**	21.5	20.1	19.3	17.3	17.1
30 - 34	**11.7**	11.1	10.3	9.5	8.9	8.4
35 - 39	**5.4**	4.8	4.6	4.4	3.6	3.7
40 - 44	**1.3**	1.7	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.1
45 or Over	**0.2**	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
TOTAL	**100.1[z]**	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.
b Includes women who were separated, divorced, widowed or living common-law.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.
Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File**, 1980 to 1985.

TABLE A-7
WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY GESTATION PERIOD[b], 1981 TO 1983

	ALBERTA		
Gestation Period	1983	1982	1981
	(%)	(%)	(%)
Under 9 wks.	23.5	17.9	16.5
9 - 12 wks.	65.8	67.8	67.2
13 - 16 wks.	8.7	11.7	12.7
17 - 20 wks.	1.9	2.4	3.5
21 wks. or Over	0.1	0.2	0.1
Under 13 wks.	89.3	85.7	83.7
13 wks. or Over	10.7	14.3	16.3
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.

b Gestation periods are expressed as the number of completed weeks of pregnancy.
Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File**, 1981 to 1983.

TABLE A-8
WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS BEFORE THIRTEEN WEEKS OF GESTATION[c] IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADIAN[b] HOSPITALS, PERCENTAGE BY MARITAL STATUS AND AGE, 1980 TO 1985

	ALBERTA[e]						CANADA[d]	
Marital Status/Age	**1985**	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1984	1980
MARITAL STATUS								
Single	**90.8**	89.5	88.5	85.0	82.6	81.9	86.8	84.3
Married	**93.9**	92.2	90.8	88.7	87.2	87.2	91.1	90.4
Others[f] and Unknown	**91.8**	88.8	90.6	84.9	85.3	84.8	88.8	86.6
AGE								
Under 20 yrs.	**87.5**	87.0	87.3	82.2	80.3	79.2	82.0	80.4
20 - 29 yrs.	**92.5**	90.3	89.4	86.5	84.4	84.5	88.7	87.2
30 - 39 yrs.	**94.3**	93.4	92.6	89.8	88.9	89.1	92.9	92.1
40 yrs. and Over	**93.5**	87.5	89.2	84.4	91.7	80.2	90.8	88.1
TOTAL	**91.5**	89.9	89.3	85.7	83.7	83.2	88.0	86.0

Refer to the Endnotes for notes a and b.

c Gestation periods are expressed as the number of completed weeks of pregnancy.
d Source: Statistics Canada, **Therapeutic Abortions,** Catalogue 82-211; 1983 and 1984 vol., p. 17.
e Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File,** 1980 to 1985.
f Includes women who were separated, divorced, widowed or living common-law.

TABLE A-9
WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY MARITAL STATUS, AGE GROUP AND PREVIOUS DELIVERIES, 1985

	Previous Deliveries						
	None	1	2	3	4 or more	Not stated	Total
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
TOTAL	61.0	18.6	14.2	4.6	1.7	-	100.1[z]
MARITAL STATUS							
Single	81.3	14.1	3.3	0.9	0.4	-	100.0
Married	17.6	23.8	40.6	13.2	4.8	0.1	100.1[z]
Others[b]	27.7	32.0	27.6	9.7	3.0	-	100.0
AGE GROUP							
Under 20	90.1	8.7	1.1	0.1	-	-	100.0
20 - 24	67.0	21.5	9.1	1.9	0.5	-	100.0
25 - 29	47.4	24.4	20.4	6.1	1.7	-	100.0
30 - 34	31.1	21.0	32.8	11.6	3.4	-	99.9[z]
35 - 39	19.4	18.5	34.6	18.0	9.6	-	100.1[z]
40 - 44	14.5	19.3	43.4	14.5	8.4	-	100.1[z]
45 and Over	-	-	30.0	10.0	50.0	10.0	100.0

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.
b Includes women who were separated, divorced, widowed or living common-law.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.
Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File,** 1985.

TABLE A-10
WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY MARITAL STATUS, AGE GROUP AND PREVIOUS INDUCED ABORTIONS, 1985

	Previous Induced Abortions				
	None	1	2	3 or More	Total
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
TOTAL	83.4	14.3	1.9	0.4	100.0
MARITAL STATUS					
Single	83.5	14.4	1.9	0.3	100.1[z]
Married	85.7	12.1	1.5	0.7	100.0
Others[b]	79.9	16.6	2.9	0.5	99.9[z]
AGE GROUP					
Under 20	92.2	7.4	0.4	-	100.0
20 - 24	81.9	16.0	2.0	0.1	100.0
25 - 29	77.9	18.5	3.1	0.5	100.0
30 - 34	79.2	17.3	2.7	0.8	100.0
35 - 39	82.3	13.5	2.2	2.0	100.0
40 - 44	85.5	9.6	2.4	2.4	99.9[z]
45 & Over	100.0	-	-	-	100.0

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.

b Includes women who were separated, divorced, widowed or living common-law.

z Percentages do not add to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File,** 1985.

TABLE A-11
WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY DAYS OF HOSPITAL CARE AND AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY, 1981 TO 1983

	ALBERTA		
Days of Hospital Care	1983	1982	1981
	(%)	(%)	(%)
Out-patients	39.4	39.3	37.4
In-patients			
1 Day	45.9	44.2	41.3
2 Days	9.6	11.1	14.0
3 Days	2.7	3.0	4.1
4 or More Days	2.4	2.4	3.2
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average Length of Stay Excluding Out-patients	1.4	1.5	1.6

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.
Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File,** 1981 to 1983.

TABLE A-12
WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY INITIAL SURGICAL PROCEDURES, 1981 TO 1983

	ALBERTA		
Initial Surgical Procedures	1983	1982	1981
	(%)	(%)	(%)
Surgical D & C	0.3	3.1	9.3
Suction D & C	79.2	78.0	73.4
Surgical & Suction D & C	15.3	12.1	8.2
Hysterotomy	0.4	0.3	0.5
Hysterectomy	0.1	0.1	0.2
Saline/Saline D & C	0.3	0.2	0.5
Urea	1.8	1.9	2.6
Others	2.6	4.3	5.3
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.
Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File,** 1981 to 1983.

TABLE A-13
SUBSEQUENT SURGICAL PROCEDURES IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY INITIAL SURGICAL PROCEDURE, 1985

Initial Procedure	Total	Surgical D & C	Suction D & C	Surgical & Suction D & C	Hysterotomy	Hysterectomy	Saline	Urea	Other
Subsequent Procedure	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
None Reported	96.4	82.1	98.9	97.7	100.0	100.0	-	45.8	42.2
Surgical D & C	1.3	7.1	0.2	0.6	-	-	100.0	45.8	21.1
Suction D & C	0.5	3.6	0.3	0.2	-	-	-	4.2	6.0
Surgical & Suction D&C	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	-	-
Hysterotomy	0.1	7.1	-	-	-	-	-	4.2	-
Hysterectomy	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	-
Saline	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	1.7	-	0.5	1.2	-	-	-	-	30.6
TOTAL	100.0	99.9[z]	99.9[z]	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.9[z]

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedure used.
Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File**, 1985.

TABLE A-14
FREQUENT SUBSEQUENT PROCEDURES IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL SUBSEQUENT PROCEDURES, 1985

Subsequent Procedure	Percentage of Total Subsequent Procedures
	(%)
Surgical D & C	34.9
Suction D & C	14.5
Surgical & Suction D & C	1.3
Hysterotomy	2.1
Hysterectomy	0.4
Other	46.8
TOTAL	100.0

Refer to Endnotes for note a.
Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File,** 1985.

TABLE A-15
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION COMPLICATIONS TREATED IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY NATURE OF COMPLICATION AND PERIOD OF GESTATION, 1985

	Gestation Period[b]					
Nature of Complication	Under 9 Weeks	9 - 12 Weeks	13 - 16 Weeks	17 - 20 Weeks	21 Weeks Or Over	Total
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Retained Products of Conception	24.5	36.0	70.2	85.1	100.0	56.0
Perforation of Uterus	14.3	4.5	3.8	-	-	4.7
Laceration of Cervix	24.5	21.6	2.9	5.4	-	12.6
Haemorrhage	12.2	8.1	15.4	2.7	-	9.7
Infection	20.4	24.3	5.8	5.4	-	13.8
Others	4.1	5.4	1.9	1.4	-	3.2
TOTAL	100.0	99.9[z]	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Refer to Endnotes for note a.
b Gestation periods are expressed as the number of completed weeks of pregnancy.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.
Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File,** 1985.

TABLE A-16
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION COMPLICATIONS TREATED IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY TYPE OF INITIAL SURGICAL PROCEDURE, 1985

Initial Surgical Procedure	Nature of Complication						
	Retained Products Of Conception	Laceration Of Cervix	Haemorrhage	Perforated Uterus	Infection	Others	Total
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Surgical D & C	57.1	-	-	28.6	14.3	-	100.0
Suction D & C	24.3	21.6	12.6	9.9	25.2	6.3	99.9[z]
Surgical and Suction D & C	28.6	28.6	18.4	2.0	20.4	2.0	100.0
Hysterotomy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hysterectomy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saline/Saline D & C	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	100.0
Urea	75.0	-	-	12.5	6.3	6.3	100.1[z]
Others	84.7	3.2	6.4	-	4.5	1.3	100.1[z]
TOTAL	56.0	12.6	9.7	4.7	13.8	3.2	100.0

Refer to Endnotes for note a.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.
Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File**, 1985.

TABLE A-17
WOMEN STERILIZED FOLLOWING ABORTION IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUP AND NUMBER OF PREVIOUS DELIVERIES, 1985

	Number of Previous Deliveries						
Age Group	0	1	2	3	4 or More	Not Stated	All Patients
Under 20	-	-	0.8	0.8	-	-	0.5
20 - 24	7.4	16.3	13.4	13.2	15.6	-	13.2
25 - 29	20.6	26.7	25.2	27.3	8.9	-	24.0
30 - 34	39.7	22.1	30.5	35.5	24.4	-	30.9
35 - 39	22.1	20.9	22.9	16.5	40.0	-	22.5
40 - 44	10.3	14.0	6.9	5.8	6.7	-	8.1
45 & Over	-	-	0.4	0.8	4.4	100.0	0.9
TOTAL	100.1[z]	100.0	100.1[z]	99.9[z]	100.0	100.0	100.1

Refer to Endnotes for note a.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.
Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File,** 1985.

ALBERTA HOSPITALS WITH THERAPEUTIC ABORTION COMMITTEES

As of January 1, 1985

Brooks Health Centre
Calgary General
Foothills Provincial General, Calgary
Holy Cross, Calgary
Rockyview General, Calgary
Drumheller General
Charles Camsell, Edmonton
Royal Alexandra, Edmonton
University of Alberta, Edmonton
Fort Saskatchewan General
Grande Prairie General
High Prairie Regional Health Complex
Hinton General
Innisfail Health Care Centre
Archer Memorial, Lamont
Lethbridge Regional (General Centre)
Medicine Hat and District (General Centre)
Peace River Municipal
Provost Municipal Health Care Centre
Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre
Stettler General
Wetaskiwin General

Endnotes

a Includes both residents and non-residents of Alberta who received therapeutic abortions in Alberta hospitals.

b Includes only Canadian women who received therapeutic abortions in Canadian hospitals and for whom selected demographic and medical items of information were available.

c Rates are derived using data which includes therapeutic abortions performed on women of all ages, that is including patients younger than 15 and older than 44 years of age.

d Source: Statistics Canada, **Therapeutic Abortions,** Catalogue 82-211; Canadian abortion rates for 1971 to 1984, 1983 and 1984 vol., p. 10.

e The number of therapeutic abortions received by Alberta women in Canadian hospitals from 1971 to 1984 are those reported by Statistics Canada in **Therapeutic Abortions,** Catalogue 82-211; for 1971 to 1977, 1981 vol., p. 111, for 1978 to 1982, 1982 vol., p. 15 and for 1983 and 1984, 1983 and 1984 vol., p. 11. These figures are used to derive the province's rates. The rates, however, have been recalculated for 1971 to 1984 using final and revised population and live births data from the following sources:

Population: Statistics Canada, **Population, Revised Annual Estimates of Population by Sex and Age for Canada and the Provinces,** 1971 to 1976, Catalogue 91-518; **Final Intercensal Estimates of the Population by Sex and Age, Canada and the Provinces, June 1, 1977 to 1981,** 1977 to 1981 revised intercensal estimates based on the 1981 Census of Canada. **Postcensal Annual Estimates of Population by Marital Status, Age, Sex and Components of Growth for Canada and the Provinces,** Catalogue 91-210; June 1, 1982 and 1983, Vol. 1, p. 42, 1984, Vol. 2, p. 45.

Live Births: Statistics Canada, **Vital Statistics, Volume 1, Births and Deaths,** Catalogue 84-204; 1971 to 1976 final, 1976 vol., p. 2; 1977 and 1978 final, 1978 vol., p. 2; 1979 final, 1979 vol., p. 2; 1980 final, 1980 vol., p. 2; 1979 final, 1979 vol., p. 2; 1980 final, 1980 vol., p. 2; 1981 final, 1982 vol., p.2; 1982 final and 1983 final, 1983 vol., p. 2, 1984 final, 1984 vol., p.3.

f The 1985 rates are calculated using the total number of therapeutic abortions performed in Alberta hospitals in 1985, including therapeutic abortions performed for non-residents of the province. Alberta women who received therapeutic abortions in Canadian hospitals outside of Alberta are not included. The sources of population and live birth data are:

Population: Alberta Bureau of Statistics, **Alberta Quarterly Population Growth, Fourth Quarter, 1985,** June 1, 1985, p. 10.

Live Births: Statistics Canada, **Vital Statistics, Volume 1, Births and Deaths,** Catalogue No. 84-204, 1985 final, 1985 vol., p. 3.

g Historically, both the therapeutic abortion rate per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44 years (TA/POP) and the fertility rate (FR), defined here as live births (LB) per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44 years, have been higher in Alberta than in Canada. Since 1981, the difference between the fertility rates of Alberta and Canada has been significantly greater than the difference between the abortion rates. Therefore, the abortion rate per 100 livebirths (TA/100LB) has been lower in Alberta than in Canada for the past five years. The algebraic expression relating the two abortions rates and the fertility rate is as follows:

$$\frac{TA}{100LB} = \frac{TA}{FR/POP\ (1/100)} \times \frac{TA/POP}{FR(1/100)}$$

h The significant difference in the complication rate between Canada and Alberta is a result of many interrelated factors. Statistics Canada's studies reveal that complication risks tend to be higher with patients less than 25 years of age (particularly less than 20 years) than with more mature patients.

The proportion of patients less than 25 years (and less than 20 years) has generally been higher in Alberta than in Canada. Complication risks also tend to increase with gestation. Although Alberta performs a large proportion of abortions prior to 13 weeks of pregnancy, a relatively large number of these are performed between 9 and 13 weeks. Statistics Canada claims that a two week postponement of an abortion from 9 to 10 weeks to 11 to 12 weeks can result in a 54% increase in the complication risk. Certain complications are highly correlated with particular initial procedures. As the mix of these procedures varies across provinces, so the incidence of individual complications will vary. Finally, collecting nation-wide data on abortion complications is a delicate issue as variations in the diagnosis of such complications may result in the failure of all provinces to report in a uniform manner.

Source: Statistics Canada, "Early Complication Risks of Legal Abortions, Canada, 1975-1980", **Canadian Journal of Public Health,** Vol. 73, November/December 1982, p. 396-400.